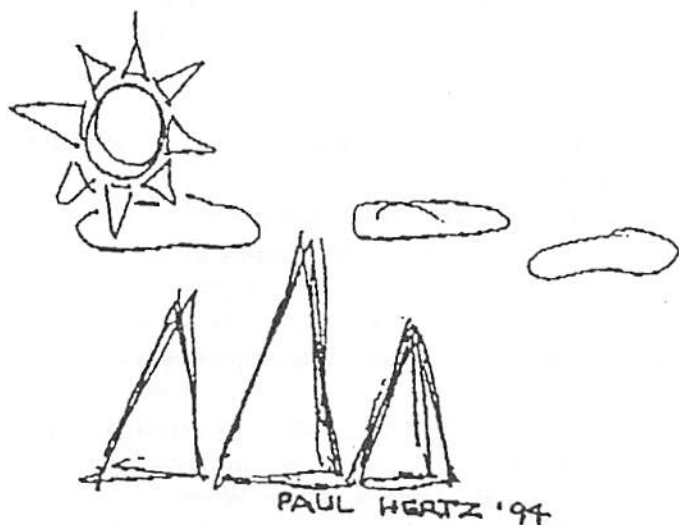


LITERACY B.C. NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1994

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

1994 SUMMER LITERACY INSTITUTE SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS JULY 4-15, 1994



13 afternoon workshops are being offered during the **1994 SUMMER LITERACY INSTITUTE**, co-sponsored by Literacy B.C. and the Open Learning Agency. During both weeks of the Summer Institute, workshops will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Workshops are open to full-time participants in the Summer Institute and anyone interested in attending. Two or three workshops are being offered each afternoon. The fee for each workshop is \$10.00. The

location for all workshops is the West Mall Centre on Simon Fraser University Campus, Burnaby Mountain.

Workshop topics include:

Family Literacy projects in Saskatchewan and B.C.; First Language Literacy; Computer-Based Integrated Learning Systems in Literacy Work; Community-Based/Student-Centred Literacy Programming With First Nations Adults; and many more!

Workshops will be facilitated by Lynn Campbell and Dale Klassen from Manitoba; Lee Weinstein; Rosa Brand-Canadas; Donna Banks, Saskatchewan; Carmen Rodríguez; Barbara Bate and Vicki Grieve; Audrey Thomas; Gary Pharness; Suzanne de Castell and Kathryn Alexander; and Paula Davies.

For more information contact:
Mary Thompson Boyd
(604) 687-5077

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS:
JUNE 24, 1994**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I write a message for this edition of the Literacy B.C. Newsletter. Our organization is now 4 years old and has a reputation for being one of the largest and most active of the provincial literacy coalitions in Canada. This reputation reflects on the hard work and contributions made by so many people: the original founders of the organization; many members who help with special events and on committees; community partners who come on board for special projects; our funders, and, of course, our hard-working and efficient staff.

It would be nice to think that organizations such as ours are not necessary. Unfortunately, we know that 1 in 3 British Columbians has difficulty with reading, writing and math. We also know that many jobs based on resource industries are disappearing and that new jobs based on information and computer technology require more highly educated and trained people. We have a long way to go to ensure that British Columbians who need literacy training can get it when and where they want it in order to reach their full potential as citizens of our society.

From its beginning, Literacy B.C. has been an active advocate on literacy issues. Some of our provincial initiatives include:

PAPERS

- Literacy Discussion Paper (1991) presented to Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT)
- Response to the B.C. Human Resource Development Project (1992)
- Response to the Faris Report (1993)



LETTERS ON ISSUES

- around literacy representation on the B.C. Labour Force Development Board (1993)
- on closure of the Plain Language Institute and further diminishing of plain language services (1993, 1994)
- on the need for full-time literacy staff within the government (1993)

MEETINGS

- with opposition MLA's (1992)
- Minister of Advanced Education (1992)
- Ministry Officials (1994)



INFORMATION SHARING

- MLAs and MPs all receive the Newsletter and are sent our Papers and letters on literacy issues in B.C.



In our meetings, our delegations have always included a learner so that their voice may be heard. We advocated for and obtained learner representation on the External Review Committee for cost-shared projects. (Two learners have sat on this Committee since the fall of 1992—first as observers 1992-93, then as full voting members 1993-94).

Recently I attended the annual meeting, in Saint John, of the National Education Organizations Committee (NEOC). This group has 2 representatives on the Canadian Labour Force Development Board. It was interesting to get this national perspective. Our province is one of 4 which currently does not have a provincial Labour Force Development Board. New initiatives and major changes are in the wind. There is much talk about "care" and "opportunity" and a "seamless system". The words are right, it is more difficult to make them a reality. When that happens, perhaps Literacy B.C. will no longer be needed - until then, there is much to be done. With the ongoing contributions of all members, partners and staff, we can continue to make a difference.

Audrey M. Thomas
President

NEW RESOURCES

AVAILABLE FOR LOAN FROM LITERACY B.C.

Intergenerational Family Literacy: A Report on the Chilliwack Community Project.

Prepared for The Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour and the National Literacy Secretariat by Barbara Bate. This report describes the process for developing the Intergenerational Family Literacy Project in Chilliwack; establishing the advisory committee; becoming aware of the issues in family literacy; designing a model; funding; advertising and reviewing the year's work.



The Yukon Literacy Council has just developed several new publications. Three of these were written by Yukoners for learners. They are written at an easy to read level and contain many illustrations. The titles are: *Land Surveying For Beginners*; *Selkirk First Nation How-To Book*; and *Let's Communicate*.

Other Yukon Literacy Council reports available are: *Literacy Upgrading For Adults With Learning Disabilities* by Gail Edmunds; *Basic Literacy/Numeracy Programming For The Yukon Inmate Population* by Gail Edmunds and *Literacy: Its Role In The Implementation of Yukon Land Claims* by Sara Darling.



Anti-Racist, Anti-Sexist Education: A Handbook of Resources. An annotated listing of resources supporting the development and production of anti-racist, anti-sexist curriculum materials for literacy workers. Produced by and available from:

The Ontario Literacy Coalition
365 Bloor Street East
Suite 1003
Toronto Ontario M4W 3L4
Phone: (416) 963-5787
Fax: (416) 961-8138



Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CCLOW)

Thirty women from across Canada have been involved in a program-based action research project that asked the question: What happens when some women in an adult literacy or basic education program decide to do something they define as woman-positive? Women from twelve programs took part in this research. They represented community-based and community college programs, a program in public housing, in a Friendship Centre, in a federation of labour, and in a prison.

They worked in the North, on the West coast, East coast, Prairies and in Central Canada. The different stories of their experiences are available in three books co-published by the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women and Fernwood Publishers:

The Power Of Woman-Positive Literacy Work: Program-based Action Research, by Betty-Ann Lloyd with Frances Ennis and Tannis Atkinson.

Women In Literacy Speak: The Power of Woman-Positive Literacy Work, edited by Betty-Ann Lloyd with Frances Ennis and Tannis Atkinson.

Listen To Women In Literacy: The Power of Woman-Positive Literacy Work by Tannis Atkinson with Frances Ennis and Betty-Ann Lloyd.

To order, or for more information contact:

Canadian Congress
for Learning Opportunities for Women
47 Main Street,
Toronto, Ontario M4E 2V6.
Phone: (416) 699-1909
Fax: (416) 699-2145.

NEW RESOURCES

AVAILABLE FOR LOAN FROM LITERACY B.C. cont...

Marks on Paper: Exploring Literacy Through Theatre—Impact of Performing on Literacy and Upgrading Students

A Master of Arts Thesis for The University of British Columbia, 1993, by Cynthia Lee Andruske.

NOT AVAILABLE FROM LITERACY B.C.

The Association for Community Based Education (ACBE) announces publication of *Framework for Assessing Program Quality: A Community Based Approach to Literacy Program Evaluation* by Sondra Stein.

The *Framework* provides a tool for practitioners and program administrators to use in evaluating and strengthening their adult literacy programs. Based on the assumption that progress is continuous improvement, the 34-page document identifies key elements for program success, and also suggests ways that these indicators or elements are related to each other. A resource bibliography is also included. Copies may be ordered for \$10.00 (US) prepaid from ACBE, 1805 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. For more information, call:

(202) 462-6333.

Deaf Adult Literacy Tutor Handbook. A tutor training handbook titled Deaf Adult Literacy Tutor Handbook has been developed to meet the needs of tutors working with deaf and hearing-impaired adult literacy students. Its goal is to make community based literacy programs accessible to members of the deaf community. Developed by the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia, the handbook covers general information such as deafness and deaf culture, communication tips, and responsibilities of the tutor, as well as specific teaching strategies. Questions or requests to purchase the 50-page handbook should be directed to:

Gail Bober, Director,
Centre for Community and Professional Services,
Pennsylvania School for the Deaf,
(215) 951-4718 (voice/TDD).

CANADA'S FIRST OVERVIEW OF CORPORATE TRAINING

The National Training Survey tells us that 10% of companies provide training, but only 2% is devoted to basic skills.

For a copy of the survey, call or write:

Canadian Labour Market & Productivity Centre,
6th Floor, 66 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ont., K1P 5H1
Phone: (613) 234-0505
Fax: (613) 234-2482

SUPERIOR PROPANE LEARNER AWARD



The deadline for applications for Superior Propane's \$250.00 Learner Award has been extended to:

June 24th 1994

For more information and to request application forms, call Literacy B.C. at 687-5077 or Fax 687-5076.

CANADIAN GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY FOUNDATION

A reminder that the deadline for applications for The Canadian Give The Gift of Literacy Foundation is June 30, 1994.

Funding is available to all non-profit groups in the form of SEED GRANTS (up to \$2,500) and PRODUCTION GRANTS (up to \$5,000).

If you require further information, please contact:
Canadian Give The Gift of Literacy Foundation
35 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2S9.
Fax: (416) 975-1839
Phone: (416) 975-9366



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOAN ACOSTA WINS ORDER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CONGRATULATIONS! to Joan Acosta, editor of The Westcoast Reader, who will be awarded the Order of B.C. in Victoria on June 16, in recognition of her publication.

The paper is published to help adults improve their English reading skills. Most of the photographs and news stories in the Westcoast Reader are taken from local newspapers and reduced to a few paragraphs of short, clearly written sentences which are then rated according to reading difficulty.

Health and safety issues are regularly included since many brochures on the topics are written with a high level of English. Acosta also focuses on multicultural content as she believes that many readers often don't see themselves reflected in mainstream media.

Joan is currently working on a book of easy-reading material for ESL and low-literacy adults, which will be distributed nationally.

ADULT EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVED

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Adult Education as proposed by The University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV), in partnership with the Open Learning Agency (OLA), has been approved by the Ministry of Skills Training and Labour, Province of British Columbia.

Initially, the program will be offered on a part-time basis only, and will be geared towards people already working in adult education, although those with career aspirations in the field are welcome to inquire.

The program begins in September, 1994. Therefore, prospective students are encouraged to request application forms as soon as possible. Applications for the Fall semester will be accepted as of June 1, 1994. Notification of admission will begin after July 1.

For more information about the UCFV/OLA Bachelor of

Arts in Adult Education program, contact the program advisor at 854-4538 or 792-0024, local 4382 at both numbers.



LITERACY RESEARCH RELEASED

Results of research that evaluates the effectiveness of the City of Vancouver Municipal Workplace Language Program and the Invergarry Adult Learning Centre program were released at a Press Conference at Vancouver City Hall on April 11.

Started in 1992 and funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, the research is important for two reasons. First, it offers an evaluation of the learner-centred approach. This approach is flexible enough to respond to the needs of learners from a variety of cultural backgrounds and ability levels. Both the Invergarry and Vancouver Municipal Workplace programs draw upon diverse populations for their learners. Secondly, ethnography gives literacy academics, practitioners and administrators a practical approach for conducting educational research. This is important because it presents a more fully developed picture of how language programs affect learners, teachers and others who are involved in the program than does research based on broad statistical analyses or anecdotal material.

The research includes two reports, "Lives of Change: An Ethnographic Evaluation of Two Learner-Centred Programs" and "Suspended In A Web of Relationships: Collaborative Ethnographic Evaluation". The authors, Dr. Hanna Arlene Fingeret and Dr. Allison Tom, and their research staff hope to contribute to the present national debate on how best to meet the literacy and language needs of many Canadians.

Copies of these reports are available from the Literacy B.C. office.



CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Summer 1994 Professional Development Programs

Conflict Resolution with Gary Harper, a consultant, writer, and trainer who specializes in management training and business communications.

Participants will examine the dynamics of conflict and review specific skills to help turn conflict into problem-solving.

Deadline for Registration: June 10.

For more information, call or fax:
Gary Harper at (604) 299-3201.



PLAIN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

In Other Words: Complications of Translation.

June 24 1994

People's Law School, Vancouver, B.C.
Plain Language Society, P.O. Box 5054, Vancouver,
B.C. V6B 4A9
Phone: (604) 688-2565 • Fax: (604) 688-2566



VICTORIA LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL

August 11, 12, 13, 1994

Literacy begins with words. Writers begin with literacy, and then they take the words and expand and expound them, compress and tease them out again into verbal pictures. It is a solitary art but occasionally the writers themselves are persuaded to meet their readers and display their art. Such an event is a Festival. Such an event is taking place in Victoria, at the Newcombe Auditorium, on August 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1994, just prior to the Commonwealth Games. In this Festival of Literature, we will be sharing the Commonwealth

Language with Jonathan Raban from England, Albert Wendt, from Amoa, Vikram Seth, from India, David Malouf from Australia, Shimmer Chinodya from Zimbabwe, as well as Jane Urquhart, Nicole Brossard, Evelyn Lau, Daniel David Moses and P.K. Page of Canada. It will be a time to eat and drink words. This is your invitation to join us - you won't be disappointed.

For more information:

Phone: 995-1607

Fax: 995-1603.



THE INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

Setting Our Own Agenda

September 29, 30 & October 1st

This conference, which takes place in Vancouver, is about making the curriculum more inclusive and reflective.

For more information call:

Community Programs and Services
(604) 527-5216, (604) 527-5479, or (604) 853-7441,
local 4250



LITERACY/ESL CONFERENCE 1994

September 30 to October 1st

"Celebrating Family & Community" will inform you on critical issues in the why, what and how of family literacy.

For more information contact:

Saskatchewan Literacy Network, Box 1520, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan, S7K 3R5
Phone: (306) 653-7368
Fax: (306) 933-6490



WORKFORCE EDUCATION

REAL SKILLS FOR THE REAL WORLD

Skills Now—the B.C. government's new skills training plan—will invest \$200 million over the next two years. In announcing the new program, Premier Mike Harcourt said, "Our plan will link high schools to the workplace, and increase access to college and university—so more young women and men keep ahead in our changing world. It will provide workers with the new skills they need for new jobs. And it will build on the strengths and abilities of the unemployed, to help them move back into the workforce."

The four "building blocks" of the program are:

- ◆ **linking high school to the workplace:** including increased work experience and apprenticeship preparation, graduation credits for skills learned outside the classroom, expanded stay-in-school programs, mandatory career planning by students, and modernized vocational and technical training.
- ◆ **opening more doors—and the right doors—to college and university:** including tripling to 8,100 the new student spaces in colleges and universities, providing degree-granting status to six colleges and institutes, and creating at least six new advanced technology programs in growing fields such as film animation and environmental management.
- ◆ **retraining workers closer to home:** including establishing 10 Community Skill Centres across B.C.—linked by computers and telecommunications—to provide new skills training to 10,000 people, creating 300 apprenticeships in new and growing job fields, and developing 70 small business and 15 sectoral training partnerships—such as B.C.'s Forest Renewal Plan—to share the cost and responsibility of retraining workers.
- ◆ **moving the unemployed from welfare to the workforce:** including developing individual training plans for 50,000 unemployed British Columbians, providing training credits for B.C. businesses of up to \$10,000 for each new employee trained, and matching skills training to the real jobs available in B.C.'s communities.

New or expanded programs will be coming on stream over the coming months, while others will be developed with the Skills Now partnership of business, labour, educators and communities.

For further information on Skills Now,
phone 1-800-637-5455.

THE BASICS OF LOCAL TRAINING

In the last three years, Local 2000 of the United Food & Commercial Workers Union (in New Westminster, B.C.) has initiated job skills training programs for workers receiving social assistance or unemployment insurance. Courses, funded by the Canadian Jobs Strategy Program, have included meat-cutting and boning, sausage-making, and women into trades. The newest project teaches cooking skills in combination with basic skills.

UFCW Local 2000 cooking school's 8 month program, began in January 1994, to help people who want to improve their reading and writing skills and who want to have a career in cooking.

Students began with 4 months of literacy upgrading with an emphasis on the reading and writing skills specific to the cooking course. 19 students have been involved in this course and 11 of them will be writing their GED exam before the end of the month.

To celebrate the finish of their course, the students will be hosting a buffet dinner:

Wednesday, June 9, 5 - 7 p.m.
New Westminster Secondary School
821 8th Avenue, New Westminster, BC

cost is only \$5.00.

For more information call:

Kelly Sinclair at 525-8811.

BULLETIN BOARD

FAREWELL TO JOANNE LINZEY

Joanne Linzey, Executive Director of ABC CANADA, has resigned her position as of April 1, 1994. Joanne has moved to Halifax to take over as President of the Metro Halifax United Way.

Joanne will be staying on the Board of Directors of ABC CANADA.

Thank you Joanne for all of the energy, creativity and enthusiasm you gave to the literacy movement in Canada.



Microsoft

UNITED WAY AND MICROSOFT CANADA UPGRADE MS-DOS COMPUTER SYSTEMS

United Way Canada is offering all registered charities in Canada a chance to up-grade their MS-DOS computer systems. Through a generous contribution from Microsoft Canada MS-DOS 6.0 is now available at a minimal handling fee from United Way/Centraide Canada. By acquiring and registering MS-DOS 6.0, you will be eligible to receive MS-DOS 6.2 at no extra cost directly from Microsoft Canada.

For more information fax: (519) 748-0664.

TO LITERACY B.C. FROM STUDENTS LEARNING TO BECOME TUTORS

We are peer tutors at the Learning Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. We're open four days a week. We have tutoring classes in the morning and in the afternoon. We have writing, math, women's group, and art classes. We have a student action group. Our peer tutors are students who care about teaching other students how to read and write. We're trying to understand the different needs of people so that we can help them learn together and help the people gain their self-respect.

We're writing to you to ask you to share with us your experience in peer tutoring. For example, we would like to know about the reaction of the tutors and the students. How do they work together and are they satisfied? If you have some experience would you share it with us? If you have any questions please feel free to ask us about our new program. We'll keep you informed about our project and send you information about us if you like.

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to tell you about our Learning Centre. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly

The students learning to become tutors

Helen Herbert

Joyce Porteous

Mary McGinnis

Roger Mercer

Gordon Merkel

For information, contact:

The Learning Centre Literacy Association
9720-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0E3
Phone: (403) 429-0675

WHO WE ARE

Literacy B.C., founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by Human Resources & Labour Canada, National Literacy

Secretariat, memberships and donations. Literacy B.C. welcomes your news and comments.

Send to:

LITERACY B.C.

#1122-510 West Hastings Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

Telephone: 687-5077 • Fax: 687-5076

DONATIONS TO LITERACY B.C. ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE